

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080087
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 MCE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01
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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RGHOUDEK:IW
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
PM:COCECIL
HA/HR:RMAXIM
AF/I:RSTRAUSS
AID/SFWA:DSHEAR
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS
EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS
L/PM:TBOREK
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-----019480 291540Z /41
R 290301Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080087

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MILI, PEPR, GV, US

SUBJECT: PATROL BOATS FOR GUINEA

REFS: A) CONAKRY 558 (NOTAL); B) CONAKRY 362 (NOTAL)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 080087

1. DEPARTMENT HAS CONSIDERED IN DETAIL GOG REQUEST FOR
PATROL BOATS, AND CONCLUDED THAT A POSITIVE RESPONSE WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF ARMS TRANS-
FER RESTRAINT, AND OUR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT OB-
JECTIVES IN GUINEA. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION
(PARA 3, REF A) THAT RECENT DECISION TO PROVIDE 18,000 TONS

OF PL-480 TITLE II COMMODITIES MAKES THIS A MOST PROPITIOUS TIME TO INFORM THE GOG OF OUR NEGATIVE DECISION ON THE PATROL BOATS REQUEST.

FOR CONAKRY:

2. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR EMBASSY TO DRAW UPON IN COMMUNICATING OUR NEGATIVE DECISION TO THE GOG:

-- WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-GUINEAN RELATIONS IN THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, AND RESPECT GUINEA'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN ITS NON-ALIGNED POSITION.

-- THE RESULTS OF THE MONROVIA RECONCILIATION SUMMIT MEETING WERE MOST ENCOURAGING, AND SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION.

-- GUINEA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ARE CONSIDERABLE, AND HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT DROUGHT. THE DECISION TO GRANT 18,000 TONS OF PL-480 TITLE II COMMODITIES FOR EMERGENCY FOOD NEEDS SYMBOLIZES OUR SINCERE COMMITMENT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.

-- GUINEA'S DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IS GREAT, THANKS TO ITS CONSIDERABLE HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN THE REALIZATION OF THIS POTENTIAL BOTH THROUGH GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 080087

ENCOURAGEMENT OF U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURES WITH THE GOG.

-- IT IS WITHIN THIS CONTEXT OF GUINEA'S OVERALL REQUIREMENTS THAT WE HAVE GIVEN DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO THE REQUEST FOR PATROL BOATS.

-- WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TO PROVIDE PATROL BOATS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT.

-- WE APPRECIATE GUINEA'S LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENT FOR A MEANS OF SURVEILLING ITS COASTLINE, AND PROTECTING AGAINST THE UNAUTHORIZED FISHING OF ITS WATERS BY FOREIGN VESSELS. THE DEFENSIVE NATURE OF THE PATROL BOATS' MISSION IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, BUT THESE CRAFT ARE NEVERTHELESS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND THUS SUBJECT TO OUR POLICY OF ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT.

-- WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT ANOTHER FRIENDLY NATION MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST GUINEA IN OBTAINING PATROL BOATS, AND THUS ENABLE THE GOG TO EXERCISE ITS SOVEREIGN FUNCTIONS WITHOUT

DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN VESSELS OR PERSONNEL.

3. FYI: DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS GOG APPROACH TO FRENCH FOR PATROL BOATS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION THAT GUINEA TRULY WISHES TO FREE ITSELF FROM DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS FOR PROTECTION OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS. RENEWED GOG INTEREST IN WILLINGNESS OF USG TO PROVIDE PATROL BOATS (REF A), FOLLOWING APPROACH TO FRENCH (REF B), SUGGESTS "COMPARISON SHOPPING". WE WOULD WELCOME FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA IN THIS AREA. IT WOULD LESSEN GOG DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS, AND ALLOW US TO CONCENTRATE OUR ASSISTANCE ON RESPONDING TO THOSE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE CONGRESS. END FYI.

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PAGE 04 STATE 080087

4. FOR PARIS: YOU SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW SITUATION WITH GOF, AND ENCOURAGE FRENCH TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO ANY GUINEAN REQUEST FOR PATROL CRAFT.

COOPER

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